

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2020-2021



Eastern Idaho
Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Geri L. Rackow
DIRECTOR

In the following pages you have the opportunity to read about some of the great work done by Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) staff during Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021). The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, which began with the first case in Idaho on March 13, 2020, significantly impacted EIPH, not just with our response role, but the way in which we continued to provide service delivery to ensure residents of Eastern Idaho could access needed public health services. While it is nearly impossible to share every detail of our COVID-19 public health response efforts, in the following pages you can read about some of the highlights of our COVID-19 response as well as a variety of other public health services in our region.

Every day in the work we do, EIPH strives towards our goal of having "Healthy People in Healthy Communities." All of the work we do focuses on:

PREVENTING

disease, disability, and premature death;

PROMOTING

healthy lifestyles; and

PROTECTING

the health and quality of our environment.

Much has changed in Eastern Idaho since 1970 when Idaho's Public Health Districts were first established by the Idaho Legislature. However, one thing that remains unchanged is the dedication of EIPH's professional, compassionate, and caring staff that is committed to providing people with information they need to help them make healthy choices and protect their health and delivering high-quality and innovative public health services.

More detailed information about all of EIPH's services and programs is available on our website. And, our staff is always ready and willing to answer questions and provide more information about our services. Stop by one of our offices or give us a call to learn more.

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PHONE

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WEB

www.EIPH.Idaho.gov

ALSO FIND US ON



BOARD OF HEALTH



Chairman
Commissioner Bryon Reed
Bonneville County
Term: 2017-2023



*Vice Chairman, Trustee, &
Executive Council Representative*
Commissioner Brent Mendenhall
Madison County
Term: 2017-2024



Physician Representative
Aaron Gardner, MD
Term: 2021-2025



Commissioner Greg Shenton
Clark County
Term: 2001-2022



Commissioner Wayne Butts
Custer County
Term: 2017-2022



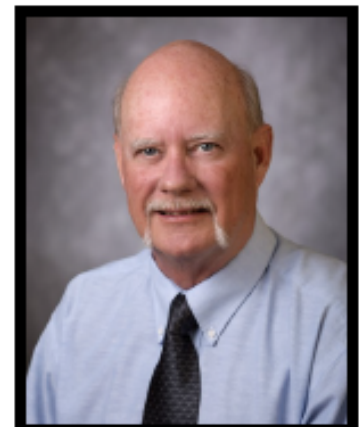
Commissioner Blair Dance
Fremont County
Term: 2021-2023



Commissioner Shayne Young
Jefferson County
Term: 2019-2024



Commissioner Leah Madsen
Lemhi County
Term: 2021-2025



Bill Leake
Teton County
Term: 2015-2024

RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

In FY2021, after many dedicated years of service to Eastern Idaho Public Health and the residents of our eight-county health district, three members of the EIPH Board retired from public service: Commissioners Miller and Miner, and Dr. Nelson.

In recent times, there has been no larger public health challenge than the COVID-19 pandemic. In FY 2020 and 2021, EIPH's current and retired board members fully committed their time and effort to help guide EIPH's response to the pandemic -- all with a goal of fulfilling our mission of reducing disease, disability, and death. For this, EIPH would like to thank them for their service as well as their unwavering commitment to public health and the residents of Eastern Idaho.

Thank You



Lee Miller
Fremont County
Years of Service: 2011-2020



Ken Miner
Lemhi County
Years of Service: 2015-2020



Barbara Nelson, MD
Physician Representative
Years of Service: 2006-2020

ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH

Ever wonder what public health is all about? Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, and administering services.

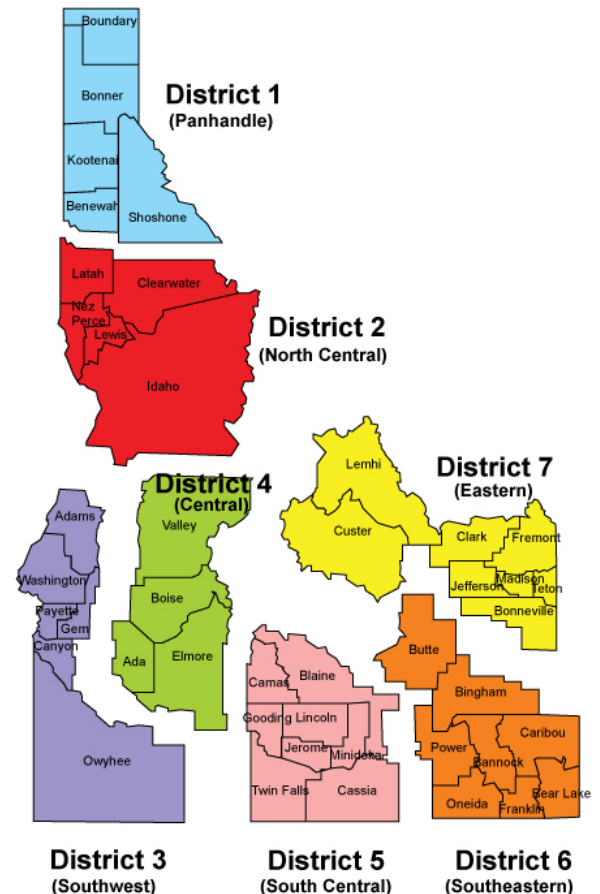
Idaho's seven Public Health Districts were established in 1970 under Chapter 4, Title 39, Idaho Code. They were created to ensure essential public health services are made available to protect the health of all citizens of the State—no matter the size of their county population. Eastern Idaho Public Health, also known as Health District 7 in Idaho Statute, covers eight counties: Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Madison, Jefferson, Lemhi, and Teton. We have offices in each of our eight counties and typically employ 110 permanent employees; however, in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, we hired over 75 temporary employees to assist in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each of Idaho's Health Districts is locally controlled and governed by a local Board of Health. They are not state agencies, nor part of any state department. They are recognized much the same as other single purpose districts. Idaho Code stipulates that Public Health Districts provide the basic services of public health education, physical health, environmental health, and health administration. However, they are not restricted to solely these services. Each Board of Health defines the public health services to be offered in its district based on the particular needs of the local populations served.

Idaho's Public Health Districts share the following goals to assure healthy communities:

- Monitor health status and understand health issues.
- Protect people from health problems and health hazards.
- Enforce public health laws and regulations.
- Ensure access to preventive health services.

Keep reading to learn how we work towards accomplishing these goals.

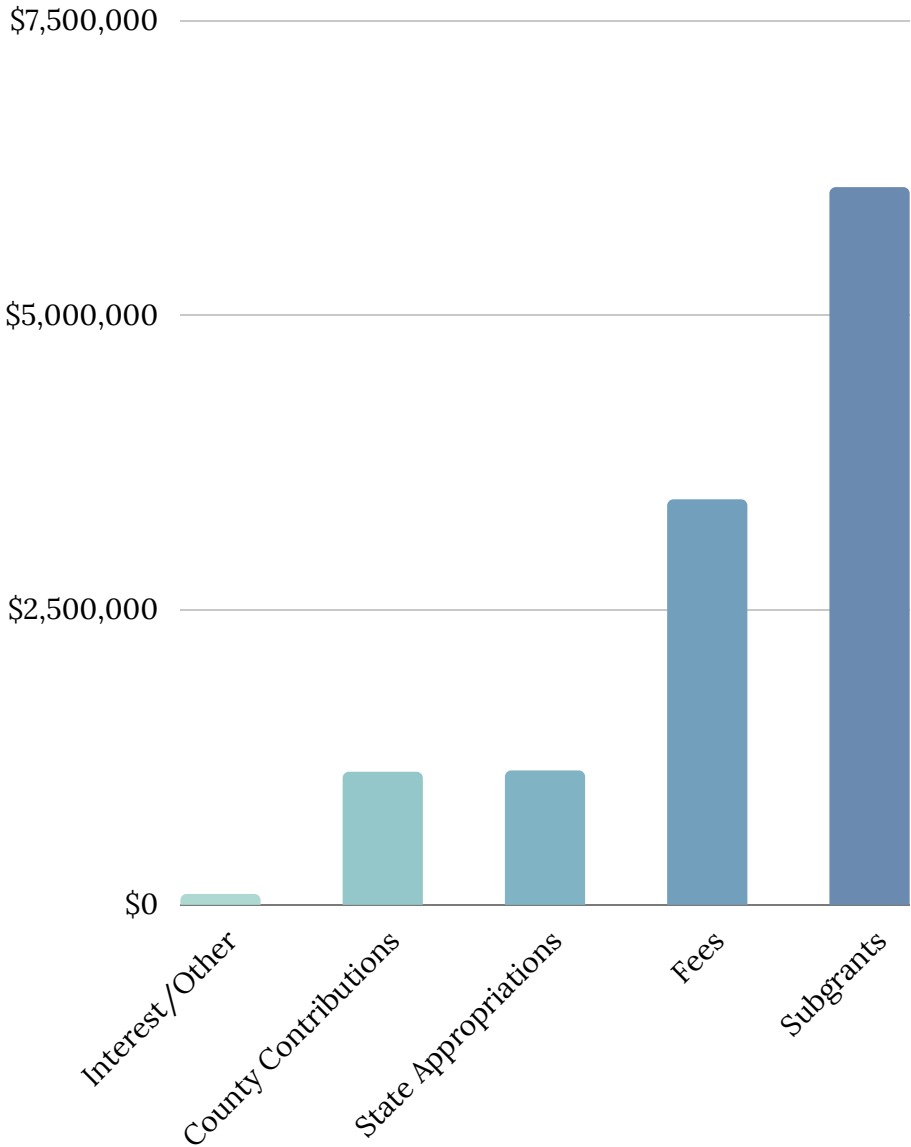


Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Idaho Public Health Districts

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FY2021 ACTUAL REVENUE



-4.48%

Expenses
below budget

20.84%

Revenue
exceeded budget

In FY2021, EIPH's original budget was \$8,072,423; however, it was adjusted up for the anticipated cost of EIPH's COVID-19 response.

Revenues in the Clinical Services and Environmental Health Divisions exceeded budget due to higher than anticipated volume in services delivered. In addition, a major impact on revenue was the receipt of donations as well as federal funding for our COVID-19 response in advance of expenditures. This work carried over into FY2022 so some of the revenue was carried over into the new fiscal year as well to cover the expenditures.

\$9,769,195

FY2021 Adjusted Budget

CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS' STATUTES

During Idaho's 2021 Legislative Session, two bills were passed that will change the authority and funding structure of local public health districts.

SENATE BILL 1060 - PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

As outlined in Idaho Code §39-414 (2), Powers and Duties of District Board, "The District Board of Health shall have and may exercise the following powers and duties....to do all things required for the preservation and protection of the public health and preventive health." As local public health districts and their respective Boards of Health navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, some Boards of Health issued public health orders implementing public health mitigation strategies to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Senate Bill 1060 added to §39-414 (2), the following:

An order of a district board of health will take effect immediately. However, notwithstanding the provisions of this sub section, if an order applies to all persons in a county or a public health district, the board of county commissioners within each affected county, after consulting with the district board of health, will determine by resolution whether or not to approve the order within county limits within seven (7) days of the date of the order. If the board of county commissioners approves the order, then the order will take effect immediately for a period of thirty (30) days. Thereafter, the order may be extended, amended, or modified and reimposed for thirty (30) day periods, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners.

In addition, an infraction (rather than a misdemeanor) for violation of a public health order was added to Idaho Code §39-419 (4), which now reads:

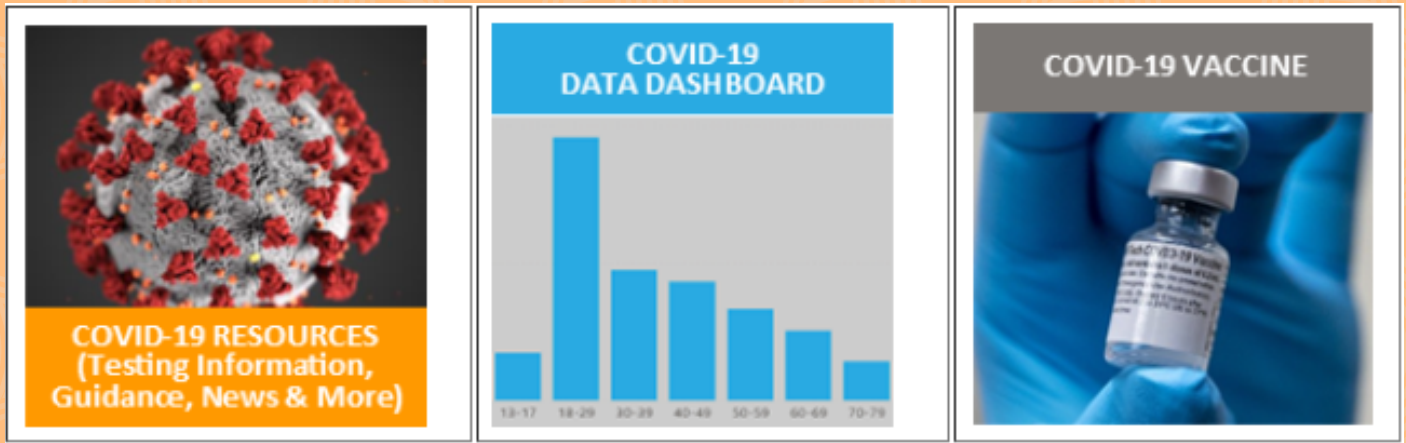
Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, if an order is applicable to all persons in a county or a public health district, then a person who willfully violates such order is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). No court costs or fees apply to such infraction.

HOUSE BILL 316 - PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS, AID

For decades, Idaho's local public health districts have requested and received State General Fund appropriations to be used to match funds contributed by the counties for the maintenance and operation of district health departments. This will change in 2022 due to the passage of House Bill 316 which created a new section of Idaho Code, §39-424A. Effective March 1, 2022, Idaho's counties will be responsible for providing annual aid to the public health districts, which should not be less than the amount appropriated to the public health districts by the Legislature in state fiscal year 2021. For EIPH, our FY2021 State General Fund appropriation was \$1,150,400. EIPH did receive eight months' of State General Fund appropriation for FY 2022; however, beginning with FY2023 (July, 2022), the Counties will be fully responsible for the additional aid to the public health districts.

The impetus behind this change was the State's desire to have the Counties help fund the added cost of Medicaid expansion in Idaho from anticipated savings to the Counties' Indigent Fund since more people will have health insurance coverage. While this may be a positive move for the majority of Idaho's 44 counties, it is estimated that seven of the eight counties in EIPH's jurisdiction will not realize the needed savings in their Indigent Fund programs to offset the additional aid they must provide EIPH. Therefore, it may result in a net cost increase for the counties. The true financial outcome of the passage of this bill may not be known for years after its full implementation; however, it does create a concern for EIPH whether long-term stable funding for local public health will be able to be maintained. Time will tell.

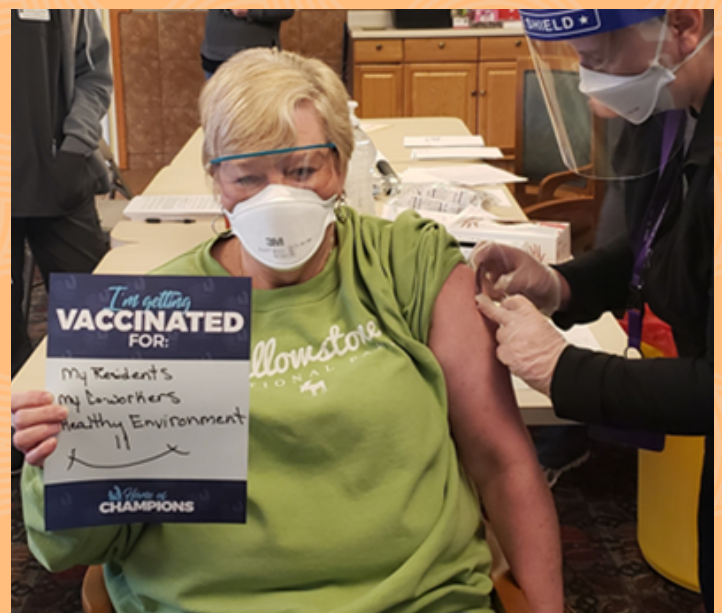
COVID-19 RESPONSE



SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 illness was first detected in Idaho on March 13, 2020. EIPH's first case was detected on March 14, 2020. EIPH's Board of Health and staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to provide information and guidance to the public, data for situational awareness, education to individuals testing positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts, and COVID-19 vaccines to those who want them.

28,401

cases of COVID-19 in
EIPH's region that staff
have investigated from
3/14/20 to 6/30/21



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We can all say without question, 2020 and 2021 have been years unlike any other most of us have ever experienced before and truly hope that we don't experience again. A new coronavirus--the virus that causes COVID-19 illness--was first detected in December of 2019 in China. The World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and later declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Idaho experienced it's first confirmed case of COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, with the first case being identified in EIPH's region the following day, March 14, 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the work of public health front and center as we were tasked with mounting a public health response. Throughout the pandemic, EIPH has strived to continue our mission of promoting healthy lifestyles as well as preventing disease, disability, and death. Below are highlights of EIPH's response efforts starting in February, 2020:

- Initiated EIPH's Incident Command structure
- Public messaging to provide people with information (press releases, information on website, and Facebook)
- Established a call center and e-mail address for the public to contact EIPH with questions
- Shared guidance to help people prepare for the spread of COVID-19
- Provided information and held briefings with elected officials and other stakeholders
- Conducted epidemiological investigations for COVID-19 cases and provided guidance to case contacts
- Worked with County Emergency Operations Centers and response partners in each of our eight counties
- Coordinated with Idaho Office of Emergency Management (state and local reps) to fulfill orders from healthcare providers and long term care facilities for Personal Protective Equipment
- Helped facilitate testing, which was extremely limited in Idaho in the early months of the pandemic, through the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories
- Increased frequency of EIPH Board of Health meetings to be able to respond to the quickly changing situation; live-streamed Board meetings to allow the public access to the important information that was being discussed
- Developed a Regional Response Plan to guide EIPH's response efforts through the pandemic
- Worked with long term care/assisted living facilities, schools, businesses, and other stakeholders to provide information and answer questions
- As cases increased, reassigned staff to assist with disease investigation efforts and then hired temporary staff to assist; staff worked 7/days a week for months
- Established a COVID-19 Data Dashboard on EIPH's website to provide data to the public
- Provided Daily Reports to the media/public on all things COVID related
- As the state moved through Governor Little's Reopening Phases, EIPH held numerous education sessions with businesses and other stakeholders to assist them in safely reopening
- Engaged Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to assist in EIPH's response efforts
- Began preparing for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccine (November/December, 2020)
- Served as a distribution center for vaccine to healthcare providers in our region
- When vaccine became available on December 14, 2020, administered it to eligible populations
- And much, much, more!

Until the COVID-19 pandemic is declared over, EIPH will diligently continue our response efforts serving the residents of Eastern Idaho.



number of Eastern Idaho residents who lost their lives due to COVID-19 (through June 30, 2021)

270

RESPONSE

COVID-19 VACCINE

On December 14, 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccine was given in Idaho to a healthcare worker at Madison Memorial Hospital by a public health nurse and EIPH's Clinical Services Administrator, Amy Gamett, RN. Prior to this historical moment, EIPH staff had been eagerly preparing for the roll out of COVID-19 vaccine to eligible recipients. Since vaccine was very limited initially, Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC) and the governor prioritized healthcare workers to receive it first. Hospitals and Idaho Falls' Emergency Medical Services staff partnered with EIPH to receive vaccine and administer it to their staff. EIPH's Clinical Services staff was tasked with providing vaccine to other non-hospital associated healthcare providers as well as some long term care providers in our health district. As the vaccine priority groups expanded over time, EIPH participated in vaccination efforts of school teachers and staff by setting up mass vaccination clinics throughout the district. The large groups gave EIPH staff the opportunity to perfect large clinic flow and determine the number of individuals staff could accommodate per hour. EIPH offered both on-site clinics and individual appointments in all counties.

On February 1, 2021, Idaho's seniors (aged 65+) became eligible for vaccine, though vaccine was very limited and supplied weekly. After some initial challenges with our scheduling process, we implemented a centralized scheduling hotline with additional staff added to handle the significant call volume for appointments. The new system allowed eligible recipients to know when they could get a vaccine, gave them an opportunity to talk to a real person, and offered flexibility to find a vaccine at another provider's office if the appointment was weeks out. The phone bank was successful and has been maintained to this day for individuals to schedule a COVID-19 appointment at any Eastern Idaho Public Health Office.

Early vaccination clinics were largely located offsite at community centers, an event center, churches, and a mall. Volunteers as well as all of Clinical Services' staff worked in COVID-19 clinics. Staff found they were able to efficiently serve sizable groups and maintain distancing between clients while they completed paperwork, received education, were vaccinated, and were observed following the vaccine. Most clinics facilitated paperwork in the recipient's car, and created signage and clinic flow to create physical distancing. EIPH's Bonneville County office was scheduling over 800 clients in a single clinic day. Staff reported that they could have served more if more vaccine would have been available. When extra vaccine was provided to the health district unexpectedly, EIPH administered over 1,000 doses in a single clinic.

59,029
COVID-19
vaccinations
administered by
EIPH through
June 30, 2021

Progression through vaccine priority groups happened ahead of schedule. By early April all individuals eligible (aged 16+) had access to a clinic to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. In May, the age group was expanded to include 12- to 15-year-olds. EIPH has administered all US-approved COVID-19 vaccine in clinics: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson/Janssen. Staff continue to offer weekly vaccine clinics in all

eight of our district's counties. EIPH has administered more COVID-19 vaccine than any other health district in the state and we remain a key vaccinator in our region.

EIPH has always focused on making sure individuals wanting or considering vaccination have accurate information. EIPH nurses and other staff have conversations frequently with individuals one-on-one to answer any questions or concerns. Vaccine is a tool to help our communities out of this pandemic. The more people vaccinated, the harder it is for the disease to spread to others as well as variants of the virus to take hold in the population.



EIPH COVID OPERATIONS

In the early stages of the pandemic while EIPH's Public Health Preparedness, Communicable Disease, Public Information, and Incident Command staff were busy with public pandemic response efforts, other staff in our Clinical Services, Community Health, Environmental Health, and WIC/Nutrition Divisions were working hard to ensure delivery of our routine public health services could be maintained safely.

AGENCY-WIDE

We used Zoom to continually connect with our staff from all eight of our county offices to keep staff up-to-date on the quickly changing situation. All staff assisted in responding in increased call volume from the public. Internal policies were developed and followed in order to protect our workforce and minimize disruptions to staffing, which allowed us to continue providing critical public health services to the residents of Eastern Idaho.

CLINICAL SERVICES

While some Clinical Services staff joined in the efforts of the Communicable Disease staff conducting COVID-19 case investigations, leadership within the division worked to develop and implement policies that assured safe access to essential public health services. Most client services required an in-person visit that needed to be conducted safely for both client and provider. Masks, temperature checks, and health screenings became part of the appointment's check-in process.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Since many of our Community Health programs involve working with schools, community partners, and the public, they were put on hold temporarily. This allowed some of the Community Health Staff to assist with the COVID-19 Hotline as well as case investigations. Other services, like our Parents as Teachers program, continued in a virtual format so that families could still be engaged and receive support from our Child Development Specialists.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Our Environmental Health Specialists continued conducting field work while taking extra safety precautions.

WIC/NUTRITION

WIC transitioned to remote appointments for participants. This was made possible by waivers from U.S. Department of Agriculture and Health & Human Services that allowed WIC to provide services without requiring physical presence. Appointments were conducted over the phone and eWIC (food benefits) cards were mailed or delivered to participants curbside. Participants expressed gratitude for the ability to participate in WIC without being physically present.



CLINICAL SERVICES



EIPH staff greet and distribute paperwork to clients taking advantage of our Drive-Thru flu shot clinic in October of 2020. Drive-Thru clinics are a convenience to clients and now a standard practice at EIPH.

Immunization Services

Vaccines are among the greatest advances in global health and development. For over two centuries, vaccines have safely reduced the scourge of diseases like polio, measles, and smallpox. Vaccines help prevent disease as well as deaths, even before the arrival of COVID-19.

Immunization services--routine vaccines for children and adults as well as foreign travel vaccines--is one of the core services provided by EIPH. We are one of the few health districts in Idaho to provide vaccines for Yellow Fever, Cholera, Typhoid, and Rabies. EIPH continues to offer many vaccines for free or at a reduced cost where expense is a barrier to service.

Unfortunately, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Idaho, EIPH provided fewer immunization services as many families delayed routine vaccine visits and less people traveled which reduced the demand for EIPH's foreign travel immunization services. Delays in routine vaccine are being reported nationally and there is some concern regarding the possibility of a resurgence of a vaccine preventable disease. EIPH's continued efforts to increase routine childhood and adult vaccine visits will be important in assuring this does not occur.

The chart below provides a comparison of immunization visits and vaccines given for the past three fiscal years (July - June). ***Note--these numbers do NOT include COVID-19 vaccinations.***

	Adults		Children		Total	
	Visits	Vaccines Given	Visits	Vaccines Given	Visits	Vaccines Given
Bonneville County	2,992	4,655	1,330	2,696	4,322	7,351
Clark County	6	6	3	6	9	12
Custer County	877	963	300	514	1,177	1,477
Fremont County	423	478	278	383	701	861
Jefferson County	712	889	720	1,311	1,432	2,200
Lemhi County	873	1,051	195	336	1,068	1,387
Madison County	862	1,386	434	969	1,296	2,355
Teton County	633	717	297	399	930	1,116
FY21 Total	7,378	10,145	3,557	6,614	10,935	16,759
FY20 Total	9,019	12,825	4,117	8,208	13,136	21,033
FY19 Total	9,891	14,165	4,704	9,761	14,595	23,926

Drive-Thru Clinics

In 2020, as fall approached and our region's hospitals were nearing capacity due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, EIPH knew it was going to be vital to protect individuals from influenza more than ever, both to protect individuals as well as help reduce the strain on our healthcare system. EIPH's staff found creative ways to provide influenza vaccine safely and efficiently through Drive-Thru clinics.

There were many lessons learned, such as "vehicles come in all shapes and sizes" and "signage can be interpreted in a different way from person to person." EIPH's Drive-Thru clinics were offered in many of our counties in our office parking lots or in conjunction with partners, such as the Madison Fire Department where we used their fire station's vehicle bays. Clients were very appreciative and complementary of the flow. Several large families were vaccinated and reported they hoped to see us "next year" in a drive-thru line.

EIPH's Drive-Thru vaccination clinics will continue to be offered long into the future.



A happy client who took part in one of our Drive-Thru flu vaccination clinics in the fall of 2020.

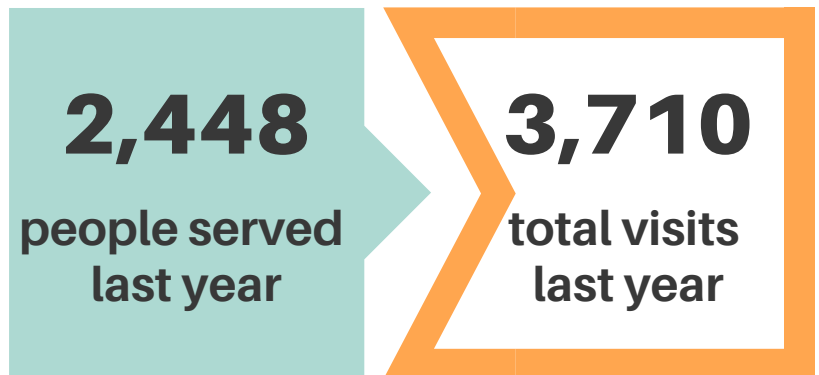


Reproductive Health

EIPH's Reproductive Health program offers a variety of valuable clinical services to help individuals whether or not they have health insurance. Some services are available for no- or low-cost. Our clinicians and nurses provide education, testing, and treatment in a professional and confidential environment. Referrals to other providers, specialists, or community resources are made as needed.

Some of our services include:

- Family Planning/Birth Control
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing and Treatment
- HIV Testing; Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Hepatitis C Treatment



	Bonneville County	Clark County	Custer County	Fremont County	Jefferson County	Lemhi County	Madison County	Teton County	FY21 Total	FY20 Total	FY19 Total
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES (includes District Care, Title X, and STD)											
Individuals Served	1,824	16	69	38	158	105	153	85	2,448	2,356	2,597
# of Visits	2,677	32	108	58	232	211	222	170	3,710	3,196	3,794
% of Title X Clients at ≤150% of Poverty Level	80%	85%	81%	81%	78%	81%	85%	87%	82%	82%	83%

Medical Record Software Change

For the Clinical Services Division, FY2020 was anticipated to be challenging due to our transition to a new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) software system, Patagonia Health. Notification of our need to depart from the system we had been using came abruptly and left our staff with less than six months to plan for the implementation of a new system. An EMR transition generally takes a year or longer to complete for most organizations, which involves workflow analysis, custom development, training, testing, data conversions, and much more.

For six months the Division's leadership staff worked overtime to work with the vendor to create an EMR specific to EIPH's services and requirements. Additionally, staff hours were spent prepping, training, and archiving the records in our current system.

The process and limited time required leadership to make the call to temporarily move from an EMR system to a paper charting system for one month as the old system expired and the new software was still in development. This resulted in a temporary decrease in efficiency as check-in, check-out, charting, and billing were slower and required additional steps. Seasoned staff recalled 20 years earlier and the initial transition away from paper to computers, and found a bit of humor in staff eager for the month of "paper" to be over.

On January 7, 2020 Clinical Services went live with Patagonia and our newly designed EMR. While the new system is still in its infancy, updates, adjustments, and workflow changes have been and will continue to be important as we work towards creating a truly efficient system.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



When property is being developed into a subdivision, the property owner must have a test hole dug and then an EIPH Environmental Health Specialist conducts an on-site evaluation to ensure the land is able to support a septic system.

Environmental Health

Idaho's Public Health Districts have the responsibility of administering Environmental Health programs across the state as a result of program delegation by the Directors of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW). These programs include:

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

- Food Protection
- Swimming Pools
- Childcare

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

- Individual and Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Public Drinking Water Systems
- Land Development

EIPH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

	FY21	FY20	FY19
# of Food Establishment Inspections	2,214	2,270	2,439
# of Swimming Pools Inspections	18	13	18
# of Childcare Facility Inspections	119	150	152
# of Septic Permits Issued	1,157	926	793
# of Solid Waste Facility Inspections	29	28	37
# of Public Water Systems Monitored	310	303	304
# of Land Development Plats	188	146	125

Over the past few years, septic system permit numbers and the number of new subdivision proposals have steadily increased. As a result, in November of 2020, a new full time position for an Environmental Health Specialist was added and filled at EIPH to help meet the increased demands in these programs. In total, EIPH has ten Environmental Health Specialists working in our land programs across our eight-county health district.

STEADY GROWTH OCCURING IN SEPTIC PROGRAM

The goal of the Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Program, commonly known as the Septic Program, is to protect human health from infectious diseases and prevent contamination of the environment through proper handling, treatment, and disposal of wastewater. In this program, and in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.03, Rules Governing Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, EIPH staff:

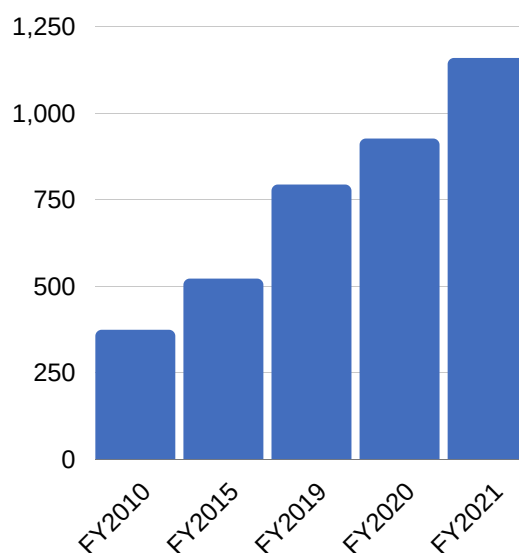
- Review applications for disposing of wastewater,
- Perform on-site evaluations,
- Issue wastewater permits,
- Conduct inspections, and
- Provide technical assistance and education to the public and those that install septic systems.

While activity slowed briefly in the program during the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activity quickly resumed and has continued to increase to record-breaking levels during the past year.



A standard rock and pipe drainfield serving an individual home.

Septic Permits Issued



INCREASED DEMAND IN LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM


The goal of the Land Development Program mimics that of the Septic Program--protect the public's health and the health of our environment. Therefore, the proper development of land, including the management and disposal of wastewater, is critical when approving land development projects. EIPH's Environmental Health staff has regulatory responsibility to review all new subdivisions to ensure that the land is suitable for disposing of wastes in order to accomplish this goal. Our staff work with County representatives in reviewing land development proposals, ensuring the development complies with all of Idaho's applicable public health laws and rules.

CHILDCARE: CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK/CLEARANCE

EIPH staff conducts Childcare Health & Safety Inspections. In Idaho, Standards for Daycare state each owner, operator, or applicant seeking licensure for a daycare center, group daycare facility, or a family daycare home must submit evidence that is satisfactory to the Department (IDHW) that owners, operators, staff and all other individuals 13 years of age or older who have unsupervised direct contact with children or are regularly on the premises have successfully completed, and received a clearance for, a Department criminal history and background check. The background check is a search of records, databases, and registries which include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State of Idaho crime records, Idaho driving records, the statewide Child Abuse Central Registry, Adult Protection Registry, Sexual Offender Registry, Nurse Aide Registry, and the Office of Inspector General exclusion list.

Starting in September 2020, checking for compliance with the Background Checks and Clearance standard became part of our responsibility while conducting Childcare Health & Safety inspections. Documentation of this clearance must be on site at the childcare facility and provided to the inspector during the Health and Safety inspection. Notice of this requirement was sent to all of the state's childcare providers by IDHW on June 26, 2020, emphasizing to providers that if childcare staff do not have this clearance, they will not be counted in the child-to-staff ratios and cannot be on the premise.

EIPH's Environmental Health staff has conducted 127 Health and Safety Inspections since the onset of the documentation requirement and has found both compliance and non-compliance by facilities. When non-compliance was found, the inspector had to ask the staff without the clearance to leave the premise and then make sure that ratios were in compliance. As a result, there were times when alternate staff had to be called into work at the facility or a child/children had to be picked up by parents in order for the facility to be in compliance with child-to-staff ratios. On the occasions that this occurred, EIPH's inspector stayed on the premise to ensure the health and safety of the children.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

BRAD LITTLE – Governor
DAVE JEPPESEN – Director

Criminal History Unit
1720 N. Westgate Dr., Ste B
Boise, ID 83704
PHONE 208-332-7990
TOLL FREE 1-800-340-1246

Thursday, July 8, 2021

IDAHO FALLS, ID 83402

NOTICE OF CLEARANCE

Applicant: [REDACTED] **Verification Number:** [REDACTED]

The Department has completed its background check and the applicant has passed effective 7/7/2021. No disqualifying crimes or relevant records were revealed. The agency issuing your license or certification may request that you provide them with the specifics of any information here revealed.

NO RECORDS FOUND

The background check is fingerprint based and includes information obtained from the state and national criminal databases, Idaho Driving Records, Idaho Child Abuse Registry, Idaho Adult Protection Registry, Sex Offender Registry, Idaho Nurse Aide Registry and state and national Medicare/Medicaid Provider Exclusion Lists.

If there are any questions about the process or results, contact the criminal history unit at (208) 332-7990, or toll free at 1-800-340-1246. Additional information about the criminal history background check process and applicant status is available at the web site: <https://chu.dhw.idaho.gov>.

Sincerely,

NUTRITION SERVICES



In June of 2021, EIPH
WIC Participants
received \$21,255 in
fresh fruits and veggies

WIC Food Dollars Spent

\$3,143,546

at Retailers in Eastern Idaho in FY20

WIC

The WIC program is a federally funded special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children. To be eligible for WIC, applicants must be a resident of Idaho, meet income guidelines, and be pregnant or breastfeeding a baby under one year of age or have just had a baby, or have an infant or child under the age of five. WIC helps eligible families save money, eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy at no cost to the family. WIC program provides participants with:

- Healthy Foods
- Health Screenings
- Health and Nutrition Information
- Help from Licensed Registered Dietitians
- Breastfeeding Information and Support
- Referrals to Health and Social Services

WIC INCOME GUIDELINES

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Number of Household Members	Maximum Before Taxes Household Income		
	Per Week	Month	Year
1	\$459	\$1,986	\$23,828
2	\$620	\$2,686	\$32,227
3	\$782	\$3,386	\$40,626
4	\$943	\$4,086	\$49,025

*** For each additional person, add \$8,399/year
Pregnant woman = 2 people**

WIC PROGRAM STATISTICS



	Total Clients Enrolled	# (%) of Clients Participating	# & % of Women Enrolled	# & % of Infants Enrolled (0-12 months)	# & % of Children Enrolled (1-5 years)	WIC Food Dollars Spent
Bonneville County	3,104	3,016 (100%)	663 (21%)	616 (20%)	1,825 (59%)	\$1,814,672
Clark County	24	23 (96%)	5 (21%)	2 (8%)	17 (71%)	N/A*
Custer County	30	27 (90%)	6 (20%)	6 (20%)	18 (60%)	\$18,553
Fremont County	112	107 (96%)	17 (15%)	16 (14%)	79 (71%)	\$58,728
Jefferson County	534	522 (98%)	106 (19%)	99 (19%)	329 (62%)	\$179,232
Lemhi County	129	118 (91%)	27 (21%)	23 (18%)	79 (61%)	\$67,328
Madison County	2,068	1,986 (96%)	589 (28%)	475 (23%)	1,004 (49%)	\$963,677
Teton County	95	91 (96%)	19 (20%)	19 (20%)	57 (60%)	\$41,356
FY21 Total	6,096	5,890 (97%)	1,432 (23%)	1,256 (21%)	3,408 (56%)	\$3,143,546
FY20 Total	6,281	5,695 (91%)	1,624 (26%)	1,367 (22%)	3,290 (52%)	\$3,373,316
FY19 Total	6,316	5,720 (91%)	1,539 (27%)	1,415 (25%)	2,764 (48%)	\$3,312,887

*Prior to eWIC (an electronic benefits card rather than a paper voucher that was implemented in 2020), Idaho tracked WIC food dollars by the county in which they were issued. With eWIC, food dollars are now tracked by the county in which they are redeemed. Since Clark County does not have an authorized WIC store, there have no food dollars redeemed in that county.

WIC'S ONLINE APPLICATION AND FORM SUBMISSION

In February of 2021, EIPH's WIC program implemented an online application including online form submission. This enabled participants to submit documents using a secure link on EIPH's website from a desktop computer or mobile device. Online form submission is particularly helpful for participants living in rural areas. We receive 150-200 submissions/month. Online form submission, in combination with telephone appointments and online education, allows EIPH staff to complete a participant's entire WIC appointment remotely.

Besides keeping our staff and participants safe, remote appointments are extremely convenient for families, especially in our more rural areas, allowing participants to receive services from the ease and comfort of their own homes.

Thank you for your interest in the Eastern Idaho Public Health WIC program. If you are new to WIC, are reapplying or recertifying, you are in the right place.

If you already have a WIC appointment scheduled: Please make every attempt to submit your application and documentation two business days prior to your appointment.

If you do not have a WIC appointment scheduled: WIC staff will make every attempt to contact you within two business days of receiving your application to schedule an appointment and discuss eligibility.

Race, sex and ethnicity data are collected for statistical purposes and will not be used for the purpose of determining eligibility for the WIC program.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider [Idaho WIC Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

CLICK TO OPEN, READ PRIOR TO YOUR WIC APPOINTMENT

[Rights, Responsibilities and Consent](#)

WIC Application

Applicant/Caregiver*

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Middle Name (optional)	Last Name

NUTRITION EDUCATION



Nutrition education distinguishes WIC as a superior nutrition program. To ensure education remained at the forefront of our program throughout the pandemic, adaptations were made. Resources and documents were digitized or revised and uploaded to our website making the information readily available for participants during and after telephone appointments. Many participants utilize the online modules offered through WICSmart. EIPH's WIC staff did a wonderful job teaching participants how to access and utilize WICSmart education modules and tracking missed education, sending reminders about education options. As a result, EIPH's WIC program has the highest WICSmart usage rate in the state, with program participants taking an average of 370 nutrition education training modules per month.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In June of 2021, the WIC food package allowance for fresh fruits and vegetables increased from \$9.00 for children and \$11.00 for women to \$35.00 for both. The increased allowance was to continue at least through September. EIPH staff provided WIC participants with education and digital resources on how to use additional fresh fruits and vegetables. In June, the most popular items purchased by EIPH WIC participants was bananas, followed by watermelon, cherries, strawberries, and grapes.

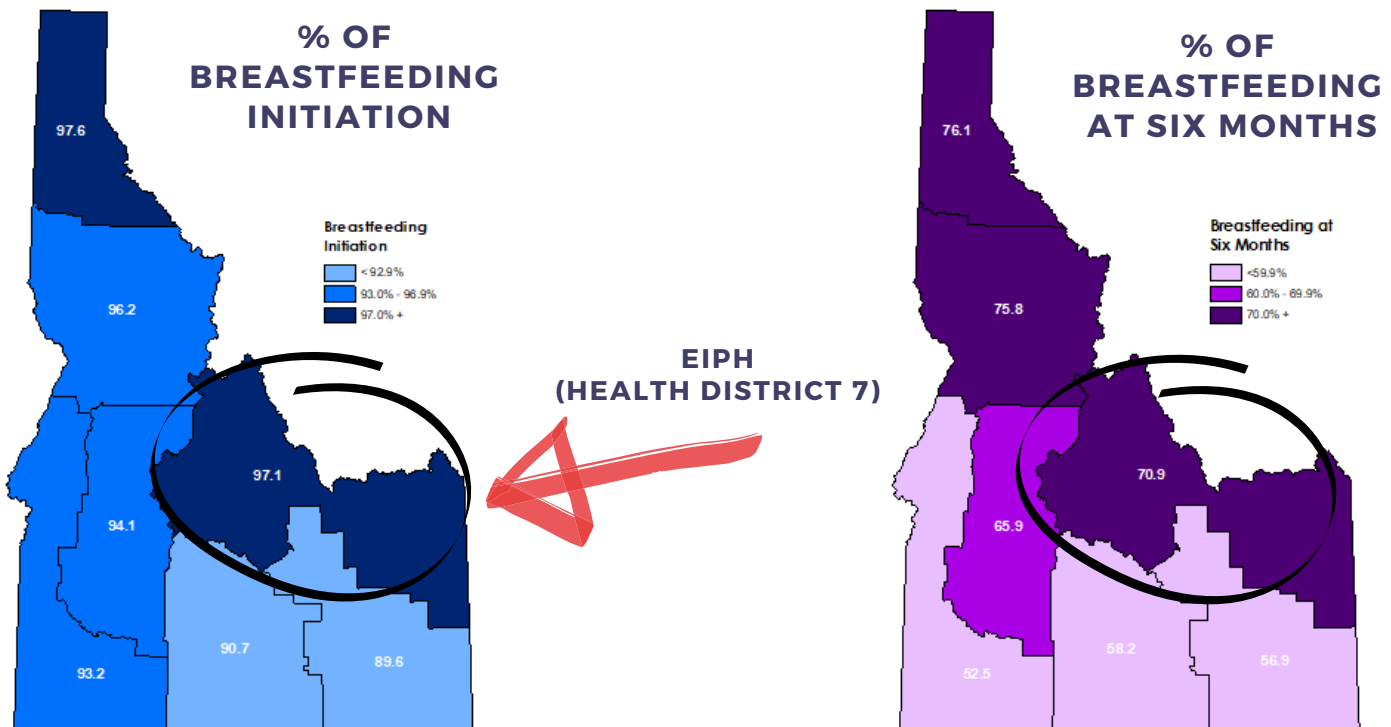
In response to complaints about fruits and vegetables not scanning properly at retailers, EIPH's WIC staff visited all WIC-authorized grocery stores throughout the health district and scanned hundreds of fruits and vegetables and helped the State WIC and local grocery stores resolve the issue.



BREASTFEEDING PROGRAM

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, EIPH's breastfeeding peer counselors provided breastfeeding support and education through in-person breastfeeding classes, hospital visits, home visits, phone calls, and text messages. During the pandemic, peer counselors have become creative at finding ways to provide breastfeeding education and support without in-person contact. This was done by digitizing all education materials which made it easy to text and email the information to participants. Virtual visits were offered in lieu of home and hospital visits. Breastfeeding classes were recorded and a link to the class sent to participants. Peer counselors were also available to deliver breast pumps to the participants' front door.

In our health district, we traditionally have high breastfeeding initiation rates. The data below is the most current data from Idaho's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tracking System (2019) for women who initiate breastfeeding after giving birth compared to those still breastfeeding six months later.



PROGRAM RESOURCES



We offer the following services in our eight-county region:



Immunization Program

Provides a full range of vaccines for all ages.

- Specializes in foreign travel and flu vaccines
- Accepts insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare
- Some reduced-cost vaccines for uninsured/underinsured adults
- No child denied routine immunizations due to inability to pay
- Worksite vaccination clinics available



Reproductive Health Program

All services are personal and confidential.

- Most services billed on a sliding fee scale based on family size and household income
- Accepts insurance and Medicaid
- Provides a full range of services and education, including: Annual exams | Pregnancy tests | Birth control
- Testing, counseling, and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) including HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis C treatment and PREP services available



Women's Health Check (WHC) Program

FREE breast and cervical cancer screening program.

- Serves low income, uninsured women
- Provides referrals for diagnostic testing and treatment



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

WIC is a FREE supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children who meet income and eligibility guidelines.

- Teaches families nutrition and how to prepare healthy meals
- Provides healthy foods like milk, eggs, cheese, fruits, and veggies
- Provides breastfeeding education and support
- Provides referrals to other community resources



Healthy Living Programs

Services offered to help people live healthier lives.

- FREE classes to help people stop using tobacco
- FREE Fit and Fall Proof™ exercise classes for older adults to help them reduce the risk of falls
- FREE Substance Use and Suicide Prevention resources and materials

Visit www.EIPH.Idaho.gov or scan the QR code for a full list of public health services provided as well as community resources in Eastern Idaho.



CALL YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Bonneville County
(208) 522-0310
TOLL-FREE 1-855-533-3160

Clark County
(208) 374-5216

Custer County
CHALLIS (208) 879-2504
MACKAY (208) 588-2947

Fremont County
(208) 624-7585

Jefferson County
RIGBY (208) 745-7297
MUD LAKE (208) 663-4860

Lemhi County
(208) 756-2123

Madison County
(208) 356-3239

Teton County
(208) 354-2220

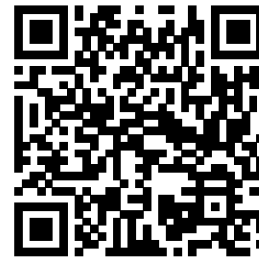


www.EIPH.Idaho.gov

EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

VISIT EIPH.IDAHO.GOV

Scan Me



VACCINES HELP SLOW OUR SPREAD OF COVID-19



**THE
COVID-19
VACCINE
HELPS PROTECT YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY.**

To schedule a vaccination appointment, please
call **208-533-3223** (LOCAL) or **855-533-3160** (TOLL-FREE)
or visit www.EIPH.Idaho.gov.



NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Eastern Idaho
Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 522-0310

www.EIPH.Idaho.gov



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